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July 17, 2002

Dr. Sharon Benz  
Nutrition and Labeling Team, Center for Veterinary Medicine  
Food and Drug Administration  
7500 Standish Place, HFV-228  
Rockville, MD 20855

Dear Dr. Benz:

I am a horse owner, and I am extremely concerned about the FDA and AAFCO eliminating the sale of supplements such as MSM, Glucosamine, and Chondroitin Sulfate for animals. I am not aware of such a significant number of adverse events that action this drastic should be warranted.

I want supplements that are designed by veterinarians and others knowledgeable in animal physiology, and that are appropriate in dose and chemistry for my horses. I have used these supplements safely and successfully for many years. I do not want to see them removed from the market.

My husband and I operate a non-profit therapeutic horseback riding program for the disabled. For horses to be suited for this type of work, they must be very quiet. Therefore, most of the horses in our program are older, and as such, they have a variety of physical ailments such as arthritis. I have been very happy using natural animal supplements to keep these horses useful for the very important work which they do.

If animal supplements are removed from sale, people like us will be left with no choice but to reach for human supplements, which are not formulated for animals. We will have to guess at what course of action is best for the pets we dearly love.

Removal of animal supplements from sale will not solve the problem; it will significantly worsen the situation. Please, let's avoid a "New Prohibition" of substances that we have used safely and with great results for many years. Let's find a way to ensure quality control and truth in labeling without removing effective supplements made by reputable companies.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Elaine L. Smith*  
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